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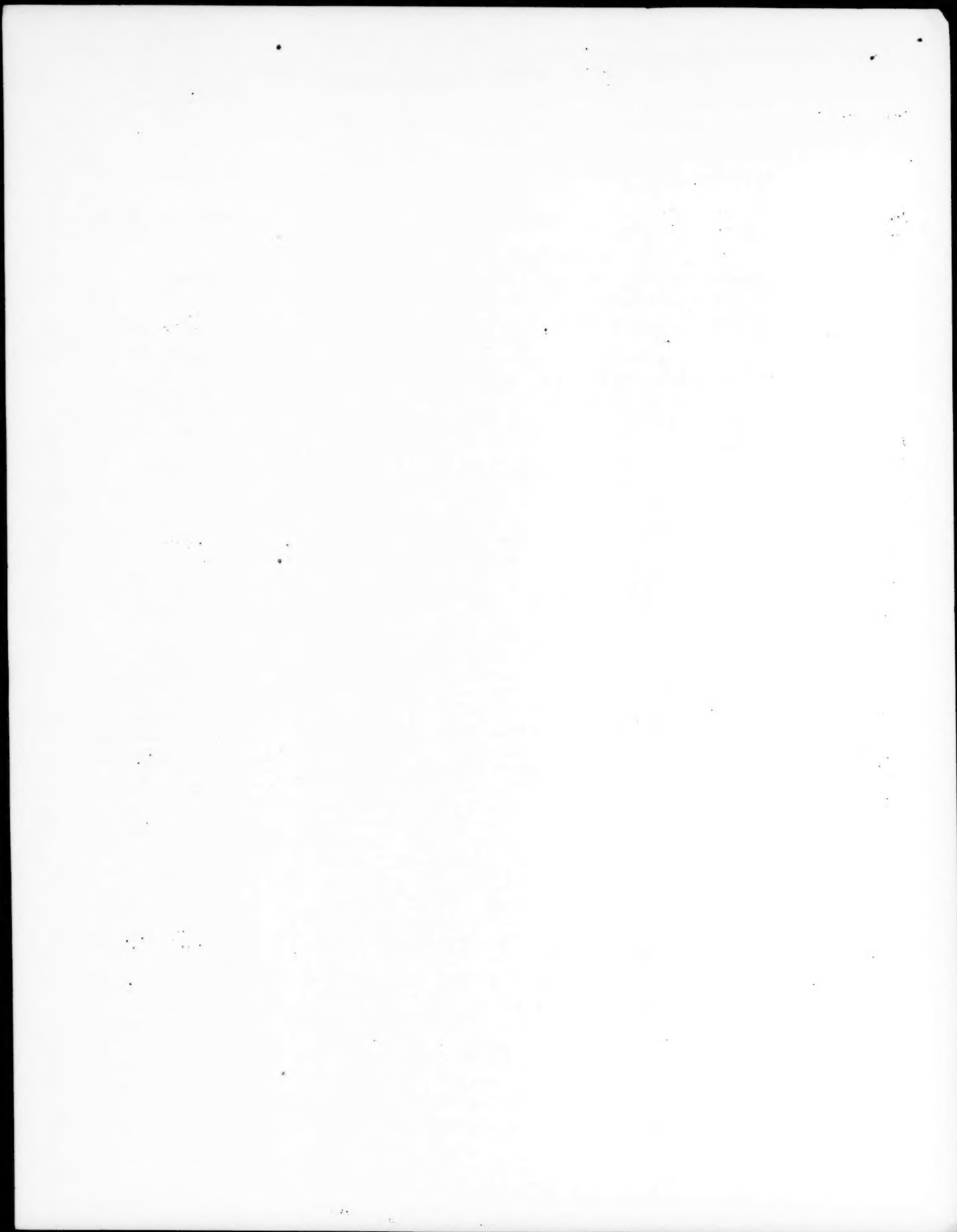
1958-1959

News of the evacuation of American women and children from Amman seems to have made some of you back home wonder if the Jerusalem School is still functioning. I wish to assure you that it is and that life is proceeding quite calmly and peacefully.

The past few weeks have been devoted primarily to study but some trips to points of interest have been worked in. The nine-day visit of Professor Herbert May of Oberlin, a Trustee of the Schools, provided a welcome excuse for making three excursions. The first was devoted to visiting el-Jib (Gibeon), Balata (Shechem), and Samaria; the second to Qumran and Jericho. At Qumran we were fortunate in being able to join forces with a party being conducted over the site by Monsignor Skehan and to enjoy the advantage of his expert guidance. Lunch at the Lido, an Arab casino on the shore of the Dead Sea, formed a welcome relief from the oppressive heat of Qumran. We plan to return some evening and enjoy the Dead Sea scenery by moonlight.

The third excursion was to Hebron. We were impressed once again by the fruitfulness of the country lying between Bethlehem and Hebron, especially by the numerous orchards and vineyards. The tremendous apples which one sees in the sug are said to come from the Hebron area. At the village of Halhul near Beth-zur an oil rig was busy drilling for oil. Let us hope they succeed - although in some ways I should hate to see an oil field messing up the countryside. On the return journey we stopped at Haram Ramet el-Khalil to see the tremendous stone blocks from the Herodian-Roman-Christian edifices which once stood there. We also visited Solomon's Pools. These are truly an impressive spectacle. They comprise three reservoirs set in a narrow valley and arranged in a descending sequence. There was very little water in them at the time of our visit so that their tremendous size was more apparent than ever. The lowest reservoir is over 500 ft. long, about 250 ft. wide, and 45 ft. deep. The guard of this reservoir allowed us into the grounds so that we could approach the edge of the pool and take pictures. Some day when we are tired of study we shall return in the hope of being allowed in again and hold a picnic under the pines beside the reservoir.

Professor May and I paid a call on Père Vincent and were surprised and delighted to find him in such relatively good shape. He sat with us for almost an hour in the reception room of the monastery and while physically frail, his mind seemed almost as clear and vigorous as of yore. We also paid a call on two other old friends of the School, Dr. and Mrs. Canaan, and spent an enjoyable evening reminiscing. The doctor is retired now from active practice and lives in a house on the grounds of the Augusta Victoria Hospital.



The School was honoured recently by a visit from His Worship the Mayor of Jerusalem, accompanied by the City Treasurer, Mr. Safieh. Other distinguished visitors have been Mr. Hashim, Jordanian ambassador to Turkey, Dean Robeiro of the Theological Seminary of South Brazil, Campinas, S.P., and Mr. and Mrs. Willard Jones. Short term residents at the School included Fathers Robert Wilde and Henry Browne of Cathedral College, New York, Father Patrick Gearty of the Catholic University, Washington, and Tom Firor of Baltimore.

Sami Maddah, Inspector of Antiquities for West Jordan, recently invited me to go with him to see a tomb which had been found at the village of Isawiyeh, just beyond Mount Scopus, and which was in process of being cleared. It proved to be a tomb of the kokhim type with nine recesses, in groups of three, leading off from an entrance chamber. It had been rifled in antiquity for the only remains found, apart from a few bones, were fragments of a Jewish ossuary. The only archaeological work going on in Jordan at the moment is Père de Vaux's dig at Tell el-Far'ah which was resumed on September 8.

One of the most interesting events to date was the public lecture delivered on Tuesday afternoon (Sept. 16) by Monsignor Skehan on "The Manuscripts from Khirbet Qumran." The lecture was held in the theatre of the Palestine Archaeological Museum and over 150 people attended. Afterwards Mr. Sa'ad, Curator of the museum, held a tea-party around the pool in the quadrangle. It was a very enjoyable occasion and Monsignor Skehan received many compliments on his most interesting and informative lecture.

The departure of some of the summer residents at the School, as well as the drop in the daily temperature are reminders that the summer season is rapidly drawing to a close and the work of another academic year soon to begin. The Clydes returned to Beirut yesterday, and Monsignor Skehan leaves for home on the 23rd. To counterbalance this exodus, I am happy to announce the arrival on the 8th of the Annual Professor, Robert J. Marshall of the Chicago Lutheran Seminary, and Mrs. Marshall with their two children, Bob, aged 13, and Margaret, aged 11. The Honorary Lecturer, Professor Lester J. Kuyper of Western Theological Seminary, Holland, Michigan, arrived on the 14th, and the Two Brothers Fellow from Yale, Mr. Robert H. Smith, arrived the following day. Thus the School family for 1958-59 is rapidly assembling, and preparations for the opening of the term are proceeding apace.

Fred V. Winnett, Director

Jerusalem School